

This week we pray in love for:

The life of the villages

- ◆ Our farming life
- ◆ The unemployed
- ◆ The parish councils
- ◆ The village clubs and societies
- ◆ SKAW Neighbourhood Scheme

In our Diocesan Prayer Diary, we pray for the parish of Meesden in the deanery of Buntingford

May prayers for...

Kensworth

The Lynch, Lynch Hill and Clayhall Road

Studham

Byslips Road and Kensworth Road

Whipsnade

Chapel Cottage to the Hunter's Lodge

This week please remember in your prayers: Daisy Thorne, to be baptised at Studham today; those in the midst of illness, operations or accidents, including Frank and Barbara Walker, Trish Palmer, Alan Geeson, Jo Hutchinson, Clifford Bygrave, Ann and Malcolm Weir, Wendy Kennedy, Chris Hazell, Catherine, Hilda, Mike, Karen; and those who have died recently, including John Chaplin.

Do you have a name or a request for prayer that you wish to have included on this prayer list? Please email Nicola on revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com before Thursday each week.

A prayer for this week: Christ our lover to whom we try to cling: as you have reached into our depths and draw us to love you, so make us open, freely to let you go; that you may return in unexpected power to change the world through us, in your name, Amen.

Readings for next week: Numbers 11: 24-30; Acts 2: 1-21; John 20: 19-23

• ***Dates for your diary***

- **Sunday 17th May, 5-6pm** – Confirmation session, Kensworth Church Hall
- **Tuesday 19th May, 3pm** – Kensworth School Collective Worship, Kensworth School
- **Wednesday 20th May, 12.30pm** – Whipsnade Village Lunch, Whipsnade Village Hall
- **Thursday 21st May, 2.30pm** – Thanksgiving service for the life of John Chaplin, Studham Church
- **Friday 22nd May, 9am** – Studham School Service, Studham Church

Foodbank requirements:

Long-life fruit juice; tinned fruit; tinned vegetables, including carrots, peas and sweetcorn please; jam; peanut butter; honey; long-life milk; sweets or chocolate; pasta sauce; carrier bags. No pasta or rice please.



THY KINGDOM COME

The Archbishops and our Bishops are inviting churches to focus on prayer for all God's people during the time between Ascension and Pentecost; May 14th – May 24th 2026. This year, building on the successes of previous years, we are again encouraged to take part and to pray for the renewal of the Holy Spirit and the confidence to share our faith and the love of God. More information at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources-0> and there is a display in the porch at Studham Church with an invitation to place flower prayers in the church.

Welcome to the United Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade

Part of the North Chilterns Group of Parishes

Sunday 17th May 2026 **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Kensworth 10.30am – A Service of Stillness and Space
Studham 10.30am – Holy Communion with Children's Church
12.15pm – Holy Baptism
Whipsnade 9.00am – Family Service

Services next week: 24th May

Kensworth 8.00am – Holy Communion
10.30am – Family Service
Studham 10.30am – Holy Communion
Whipsnade 9.00am – Holy Communion

If this is your first visit to one of our churches, then please make yourself known as we're a friendly lot – really! The rector (Nicola) can be reached on (01582) 872223 or at revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com. Please also email Nicola if you'd like to receive this service sheet weekly by email. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

Sunday 24th May 2026
Seventh Sunday of Easter

The Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

A reading from Ezekiel

Ezekiel 36: 24-28

The word of the Lord came to me: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1: 6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord

John 17: 1-11

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS:

Do you find it hard to know when to stop and reflect on God's glory and when to actively witness to his love?

For parents and carer – spend some quiet time with your children this week, and help them to reflect on the need to stop and rest in God's love.